



Security Council

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Letter dated 15 July 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

At the time when the Security Council is about to consider the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), the Government of Morocco would like to reiterate its commitment in favour of a just and lasting political solution to the regional dispute that was artificially created to block the legitimate right of the Kingdom of Morocco to its territorial integrity.

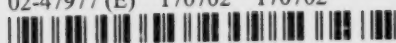
Indeed, as soon as the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy introduced the draft Framework Agreement on the Status of Western Sahara to the Security Council in June 2001 (S/2001/613, annex I), the Government of Morocco expressed its willingness to negotiate on that basis, with the necessary flexibility, in order to achieve a final solution to the dispute.

The draft Framework Agreement stems from the necessity to reach a political compromise based on a substantial devolution of authority to the population concerned, while respecting the Kingdom of Morocco's prerogatives of sovereignty.

Unfortunately, Algeria and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Ahmra y de Río de Oro (Frente POLISARIO) decided to ignore resolution 1359 (2001) adopted by the Security Council on 29 June 2001, and refused the negotiations proposed by Mr. James A. Baker III, the Personal Envoy, in the Pinedale meeting (Wyoming, 27-29 August 2001). The situation got even worse when they submitted the idea of partition of the territory, which constitutes a threat to the stability of the whole Maghreb region, in a clear attempt to block the process of a political solution.

It is therefore obvious that the Security Council is called upon to decide whether to grant a clear mandate to Mr. Baker in order to allow him to carry on his task of political mediation initiated by the draft Framework Agreement, or to maintain the status quo, with all its inherent risks.

The Government of Morocco sincerely hopes that the Security Council will encourage the pursuit of the political solution initiated by Mr. Baker in June 2001 to settle the Western Sahara regional dispute, thus paving the way to Maghreb regional development.



I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohamed **Bennouna**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

